

VZCZCXRO6734
RR RUEHBL
DE RUEHLO #2702/01 3371657
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
R 031657Z DEC 09
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4164
INFO RUEHBL/AMCONSUL BELFAST 1455

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 002702

SIPDIS

FOR EUR/WE, INR/B

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/03/2019

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [UK](#)

SUBJECT: WELSH LABOUR ELECTS NEW LEADER

Classified By: Political Minister Counselor Greg Berry for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (SBU/NF) Summary: Carwyn Jones won an unexpectedly strong victory in the Welsh leadership election and will take over as First Minister

¶2. (U) The Welsh Labour Party announced on December 1 that it had elected Carwyn Jones as its new leader. Jones has been seen for years as

¶3. (SBU/NF) Jones was considered more of a mainstream candidate than Hart or Lewis, both of whom struck a more traditionally Welsh socialist
Jones Faces Tough Challenges -----

¶4. (SBU/NF) Because Labour is the senior partner of the governing coalition, Carwyn Jones is slated to become First Minister on December 9 (Biographic Note -----

¶5. (SBU/NF) Carwyn Howell Jones was born March 21, 1967 in Swansea, Wales and raised in a Welsh-speaking household in Bridgend, Wales. He is

¶6. (SBU/NF) Jones is a telegenic public speaker. He is a devoted family man and rugby fan who looks polished in a business suit but has a casual

¶7. (C/NF) Comment: The Welsh Assembly has no power over foreign affairs, so Jones's views on foreign policy will not have a great impact or Susman